UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/960
29 June 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 166

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN LIBERIA

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/48/592/Add.1), which provides information on the financial performance of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) for the period 22 September 1993 to 21 April 1994 (paras. 31, 32 and annexes I and II); cost estimates for the period from 22 April to 22 October 1994 (paras. 33-37 and annexes III and IV) and revised estimates for the liquidation period, from 23 October to 31 December 1994 (paras. 38 and annex VI). In paragraph 49 of his report, the Secretary-General outlines the actions that would appear to be required to be taken by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session in connection with the financing of UNOMIL. During its consideration of the report, representatives of the Secretary-General provided the Advisory Committee with additional information.

2. The introduction to the report of the Secretary-General provides background information on the development of the Mission. As stated in paragraph 7 of the report, the three Liberian parties, at a meeting held at Monrovia on 15 February 1994, had reached agreement on most of the outstanding issues which had impeded the commencement of disarmament and the installation of the Transitional Government. The parties agreed also that elections, which had been previously scheduled for March 1994, would be held on 7 September 1994, that the installation of the Transitional Government would take place on 7 March 1994 and that disarmament would commence on that date. The Advisory Committee notes from the report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council dated 24 June 1994 1/ that the Liberian National Transitional Government has been installed.

3. By its resolution 911 (1994) of 21 April 1994, the Security Council, inter alia, decided to extend the mandate of UNOMIL until 22 October 1994.

4. The table below provides information on appropriations and assessments for UNOMIL for the period from 22 September 1993 to 21 July 1994.

	Gross (United States dollars)	Reference
Appropriated/authorized		
22 September 1993-21 April 1994	32 797 100	Resolution 48/247 (para. 9)
22 April 1994-21 July 1994	13 077 300	Resolution 48/247 (para. 10)
Total	45 874 400	
Assessed		
22 September 1993-21 April 1994	40 318 000	Decision 48/478 (para. b)
Credits to Member States from unencumbered balances	-	
Total	40 318 000	
Balance to be assessed	5 556 400	

Financial performance for the period from 22 September 1993 to 21 April 1994

5. The Committee notes that as reflected in annex I to the report of the Secretary-General (A/48/592/Add.1), total savings of $12.4 million gross for the above period relate mostly to such objects of expenditure as assistance for disarmament and demobilization ($3.0 million), premises ($2.2 million), civilian personnel costs ($2.2 million), military personnel costs ($1.0 million) and acquisition of other equipment ($1.3 million). The savings were somewhat offset by expenditure overruns relating mostly to miscellaneous services. Explanations of savings and expenditure overruns are contained in annex I to the Secretary-General's report.

6. Some of the reported savings are rather notional, since they reflect delays in the operational plan of UNOMIL and represent, in fact, a deferred charge on subsequent budgetary periods. For instance, the reported savings under assistance for disarmament and demobilization ($3.0 million) for the period from 22 September 1993 to 21 April 1994 will be somewhat offset by an increase for the period from 22 April to 22 October 1994.

7. The Advisory Committee notes that most explanations of the reported savings of $12.4 million, as contained in annex I to the report of the Secretary-General, are of a technical nature. The Committee believes that savings of such magnitude (37.8 per cent of appropriations) should have been more extensively justified.

Cost estimates for the period from 22 April to 22 October 1994

8. The cost estimates for UNOMIL for the period from 22 April to 22 October 1994 are estimated by the Secretary-General at $25,467,100 gross ($24,505,600 net), as reflected in paragraph 33 of the report. Supplementary information thereon is presented in annex IV to the report. These estimates

provide for a total of 368 military personnel (303 military observers, 20 medical staff and 45 military engineers), 89 international civilian staff, 58 United Nations volunteers and 139 local staff. In addition, a provision is made for 200 electoral observers for a period of 15 days. The Committee notes that the cost estimates take into account expected dates of arrival of staff and volunteers in the Mission area.

9. As can be seen from annex VII.B to the report, the average vacancy rate for the Mission for the period from September 1993 to April 1994 was 70 per cent in the Professional category and above of internationally recruited staff, 38 per cent in the General Service and Field Service categories of internationally recruited staff and 61 per cent in the local staff category.

10. The Advisory Committee notes from annex VIII.B to the report that by 30 June 1994 all vacant posts in the staffing table of UNOMIL are expected to be filled; the Committee doubts that this can be achieved. The Committee also notes from annex IX to the report that out of 13 electoral observers planned for deployment for April 1994, only one observer was actually deployed.

11. The Committee was informed by representatives of the Secretary-General that requirements for civilian personnel costs may have been somewhat overestimated, given the vacancy situation in the Mission and delays in its operational plan, including the election and disarmament components. The consequential reduction in the estimates is $676,200.

12. The Advisory Committee notes from the report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council dated 24 June 1994 1/ that the Council will review, on or before 30 June 1994, the situation in Liberia, including the role played by UNOMIL, progress with respect to the effective operation of the Liberian National Transitional Government and disarmament and demobilization, as well as preparations for the holding of elections on 7 September 1994. The Committee also notes from that report that the process of disarmament and demobilization is developing at a slow pace and that, unless drastic measures are taken now, there is a serious danger that the elections will not be held on schedule. In view of the above, the Advisory Committee believes that the resources proposed for the programme of disarmament and demobilization and for the elections are unlikely to be used in toto within the period covered by the report of the Secretary-General.

13. A provision of $1.6 million has been budgeted for the basic remuneration of 58 United Nations volunteers, as reflected in annex IV, line item 2 (d), to the report of the Secretary-General (A/48/592/Add.1). The Committee intends to consider the question of the use of United Nations volunteers in the context of the Secretary-General's report on effective planning, budgeting and administration of peace-keeping operations (A/48/945).

14. In view of its observations in paragraphs 10 and 12 above, and taking into account additional information provided by the Secretariat, the Committee recommends that an amount of $23.0 million gross be appropriated for the period from 22 April to 22 October 1994, inclusive of the amount of $13,077,300 gross already authorized under the terms of General Assembly resolution 48/247 of 5 April 1994 for the three-month period beyond 21 April 1994. In addition, the

Committee recommends that an unencumbered balance of $12,429,900 gross ($12,352,800 net) in respect of the period from 22 September 1993 to 21 April 1994 be set off against the amount assessed on Member States for that period.

Cost estimates for the liquidation phase of the Mission, from 23 October to 31 December 1994

15. As stated in paragraph 38 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/48/592/Add.1), the liquidation of the Mission will be completed by 31 December 1994. A detailed explanation of the related cost of the liquidation ($5.0 million gross) is provided in annexes V and VI to the report. A disposition of assets is outlined in paragraph 39 of the report.

16. The Committee notes that the cost estimates ($5.0 million gross) take into account the schedule of phasing-out the military personnel and civilian staff. As follows from annex VII.C to the report, a provision is made for 35 international staff and 70 local staff during the entire liquidation period of 2.3 months. The Committee believes that the proposed structure of the Mission during its liquidation period is unnecessarily top-heavy, and it is not convinced of the need to maintain 105 staff in the Mission area during the whole period of the liquidation. The Committee recommends, therefore, that the staffing structure and the duration of staff presence during the liquidation period be reviewed.

17. In view of its observation contained in paragraphs 12 and 16 above, the Committee recommends that the Secretary-General resubmit the estimates for the liquidation phase of UNOMIL to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

Notes

1/ S/1994/760.